

From the Bangor Democrat. WHAT IS THE OBJECT?

From the present appearance of things the great object of England is to put off definite action on the Northeastern Boundary line question and others connected with it, until after the adjournment of Congress, and the great object of the Provincial authorities and people, less apprehensive of National than State action, is to get quietly by the adjournment of the Maine Legislature. The frivolous pretences, flimsy equivocations and singular denials of the British Minister fairly admit and warrant this explanation and conclusion.—We would not express the harsh sentiment that Mr. Fox has premeditatedly dissembled and uttered what is untrue; although he has unquestionably acted the part of a wary and accomplished diplomatist, we charitably believe he has in a measure acted upon wrong information, purposefully or most discreetly and dishonorably communicated to him. It has and will be proved beyond doubt or cavil, that the statements in his communication to Mr. Forsyth of the 26th of January, do not correspond with facts. Yet whatever advice he might have received, his denial in relation to military movements and occupancy in the disputed territory is very surprising, inasmuch as the Governor of New Brunswick had admitted what he denies, in his communication to Gov. Fairfield only one month previous.

In his letter to Governor Fairfield, dated 19th December, 1839, Gov. Harvey says—

"Whatever movement of troops may have taken place on the side of Lower Canada, have been made by authority superior to mine—but I apprehend they have consisted, not of two regiments but of one or two companies, as a small detachment for the protection of certain buildings which have been constructed for the better accommodation of Her Majesty's troops on their march between the Lower and Upper Provinces, and of the provisions, stores and other public property therein deposited."

On the 26th of January, 1840, only about one month after the above was written, Mr. Fox writes to Mr. Forsyth as follows—

"It appears from accurate information now in the possession of the undersigned, that the Governor of Maine and through him the President and general government of the United States have been misinformed as to the facts. In the first place no reinforcement has been marched to the British post at the Lake Temiscouma; the only change occurring there has been the relief of a detachment of Her Majesty's 24th regiment of equal force of the 11th regiment—this force of one company being stationed at the Temiscouma post, as it always has been, for the necessary purpose of protecting the stores and accommodations provided for the use of Her Majesty's troops who may be required, as heretofore, to march by that route to and from the provinces of Canada and New Brunswick. In the second place, it is not true that the British authorities either have built or are building barracks on both sides of St. John's river; no new barracks have in fact been built anywhere."

The difference in the statements of those two British functionaries is most apparent. The want of accuracy and fidelity to facts in Mr. Fox's letter are now generally known, and Gov. Harvey's frank admission in relation to British buildings, (he does not it is true use the word barracks, stores, provisions and public property, and the location, passing and repassing of troops in and over that district, military occupancy to all intents and purposes, seems to have been as generally overlooked.

Another circumstance goes to strengthen the view we have here taken, that one great object of the British is delay. In his last letter to the United States Secretary the British Minister asserts that Her Majesty's authorities in North America will, as at present advised, take upon themselves the responsibility of acting according to their discretion. In the exercise of this discretion they decline to remove their troops and persist in violating their pledged faith not "to seek to take military possession," without renewed instructions, and take time to communicate with the Home Government.

Now is it to be believed that Governor General Thompson, recently commissioned and sent out to this country, and the British Minister residing here, have not received definite instructions, or that they are not fully acquainted with the disposition of their government upon this subject? The supposition is inadmissible, and hence we infer that the object of sending across the Atlantic is procrastination and an unwillingness for the present by overt acts to commit the English Government and expose to its true policy. Such may be the instructions of that Government to its official agents, but we have shown that these agents do not altogether agree in the developments that have been made.

As we understand it, the case stands thus: Our Government has demanded of the British Minister the abandonment of their military occupancy of the disputed territory; Mr. Fox replies that as at present advised he shall not comply with the demand, and has transmitted the request to his government, and until a reply and instructions are received he and his coadjutors will act according to their discretion. It is believed to be a new thing in history for a nation to negotiate foreign troops from its own territory in time of peace, but a short delay is better than the employment of forcible means which will precipitate the country into a war. But it would be a forbearance not a virtue for Congress to adjourn and leave our territory invaded, and we feel confident that Maine will not be thus deserted, and compelled to exert her physical strength unaided by the nation.

Time will prove whether great Britain has resolved to have a serious misunderstanding with this country for the purpose of a war. It is more than hypothetical that British statesmen if not the Ministry foresee the necessity of making preparations to encounter Russia at no distant period; a power which is fast rivaling England and sufficiently jealous of her and confident enough in its own strength to be quite willing for a conflict. For want of actual service the navy of England has lately lost much of its efficiency, her vessels and many of them decayed and many of her seamen have entered the employment of other countries. She may wish to repair the decay and losses of a long peace and to restore the wonted strength and tone of her navy. To this end, she may be anxious for a preliminary war with the U. States the better to prepare her for another war which it may be impossible to avoid. Or what is still more probable, the immediate prospect of a war may be the only means that will arouse the country and justify the measures deemed necessary for its further welfare; and this country is the best one for the time to raise a war

cry against. There may be more important causes operating to produce a rupture between the United States and England than Boundary lines, and we should be prepared to meet the crisis.

WARLIKE!

Her Majesty's ship *Vestal* has arrived at Halifax, where we understand, other vessels of war are soon expected, for the purpose of bringing Troops and Munitions of War to this Province, in case they should be required.

We learn, also, that the 23d Fusiliers, now in garrison at Halifax, instead of being about to proceed to the East Indies is the first Regiment for service in this Province, and has received orders to be ready to move at the shortest notice.

We are further informed, on good authority, that the erection of Barracks at Woodstock, in this Province, for the accommodation of a large military force, has been determined upon, and the work is to commence immediately.

These precautions, we presume, are taken in accordance with the views expressed in the Communication of the British Minister at Washington to the American Secretary of State, under date of the 26th January, which will be found in a preceding column. The continued persistence of Governor Fairfield in acts of aggression on the disputed territory, contrary to existing arrangements, (while the British authorities, as will appear by Mr. Fox's letter, have scrupulously adhered to them both in letter and spirit,) and the repeated threats of his determination to take possession of the territory, could not fail to arouse our authorities to a sense of their duty, and no doubt caused the present warlike demonstrations.

We sincerely trust, however, that the United States Government will perceive the difficulties into which the refractory Governor of Maine is about plunging the two nations, and at once interpose to prevent the awful calamities of either a border or a general war.—*St. Johns Courier.*

FREDERICTON, Feb. 12.

The House passed a bill on Monday continuing the law passed last year, authorizing the Lieutenant Governor with the advice of his Council, to embody a force of 1200 men, to march out of the Province if required in case of emergency. It met with some opposition, on the ground that no necessity existed for the law passed originally, and that certainly none exists now.—It was passed, however, by a large majority.

From the Democratic Republican.

THE MILITIA AND THE SYSTEM.

We think few will be found at this day, to deny the necessity of a thorough re-organization of the Militia. While, in numerical strength, it far exceeds any demands that are likely to be made upon it, in efficiency, so far as it has been tested, it falls short of the mark. The design of a militia system, so far as we understand it, is to give a male population of a State, such a knowledge of the art of war, as will render them competent to repel invasion from without, and to quell tumult within. Has this object been accomplished? We say, it has not. Law upon law has been framed, and plan upon plan has been adopted, yet no actual good has been effected. The militia have, instead of advancing, deteriorated. The fault lies not, as we have before observed, in the militia itself, but in the code which governs it. And what is wanting, is thorough revision and re-organization.

The evils existing in our present system are too obvious to require a detailed enumeration of them. We shall however, briefly allude to some of them believing that the subject, from the peculiar aspect of the N. E. Boundary affair, is about to become one of the first importance.

1. The burthens of militia duty bear unequally upon the people.
2. The present system gives no stimulus to military pride and ambition.
3. The organization of the militia is very defective, both as regards the different staff departments, and the line.
4. The necessary material for transportation, &c. are wanting.

That the burthens of the present system fall unequally upon the people, is no matter of cavil. The poor man, dependant upon his daily labor for support, for himself, and perhaps for a family, is obliged to go the expense of furnishing himself with arms, and equipments, which he cannot afford. He is obliged to leave his daily avocations, not only without remuneration, but an actual expense, besides the loss of time. The young man, who may have arrived at the age of 18, relying upon a salary, which is barely sufficient for his maintenance, falls under this conscription system, as we choose to term it, at a great disadvantage to himself, and perhaps to an employer. In case of a non-fulfilment of the requirements of the law, he is obliged to pay heavy fines, which are, to the classes we have mentioned, equally onerous. This is right enough, so far as regards the penalties, but we should like to see inducements held out as well as threatenings. The military code should embrace a system of rewards, as well as of punishments, whereas, it is almost entirely composed of the latter. As we are now speaking of the present system solely, the remedy for the evils will more properly be spoken of elsewhere.

As to the present system offering no stimulus to military pride and ambition, it is almost sufficient to say, that the discouragements and expenses incident to holding a commission in the militia are enough to stifle all the military ardor a man may have within him. Few can be found to accept an office in the militia, and the most of those who do, retire from it as soon as possible. Where the laws of the State, which, though intended to encourage the officer and soldier, actually operate as drawbacks, it is not surprising that these things are so. The whole import and tenor of the laws seem to be, to coerce men to do military duty, instead of giving encouragement and holding forth inducements to perform it.

The staff departments are very defective as is obvious. In the organization of companies, too little regard is had to having a full and efficient number of privates. It does not look well to see some dozen or twenty privates, with a dozen commissioned and non-commissioned officers, a standard, and a band of music. And the case so extends upwards, in the organization of regi-

ments. Some regiments parade with some four or five companies, of about thirty men each, thus giving a Colonel, and a host of other officers, for what ought to comprise but two good companies, or less.—It is the shadow, without the substance, of efficiency.

We have thus crudely alluded to some of the existing defects in our militia system, and shall further pursue the subject at our leisure.

From the Eastern Argus.

THE ASSUMPTION SCHEME.

This Scheme, as we have said in a previous article, came from England, and had its birth in the Counting house of the Barings. The principle, however, upon which it is based, is no new thing—it has been before the American people for a long time—and the Barings have only extended it and built upon it. As early as 1832 Mr. Clay announced it substantially in his celebrated "Distribution Bill," by which the proceeds of the public lands were to be given to the several States, to be used among other things, "for the reimbursement of any debt contracted for Internal Improvements." Here, in this clause, is contained the whole idea of Assumption—Assumption to a certain extent only, to be sure, but still involving the same dangerous doctrine which is the germ and foundation of the late project of the Barings.

Mr. Clay's distribution bill has been vigorously pressed upon Congress every year since 1832, and the States have been thus in effect taught by him and his friends, to regard the National Treasury as the great source to which they must eventually look for the means of discharging any debts "contracted for Internal Improvements." How far this perilous idea has contributed to swell the tide of extravagance into which many of the States have rushed, it is difficult to say.—It is easy to see, however, that its tendency has always been to make the States less provident than they otherwise would have been, to make their credit better in the stock market, and thus to increase the amount of their indebtedness.

Nothing can be more dangerous than to accustom men or States to look beyond their own resources, for support against the consequences of their own improvidence. He who is sure of relief when his extravagant conduct immerses him in trouble, will not be likely to guard himself with much anxiety within the safe boundaries of economy. And if this Assumption scheme succeeds, it will be nothing else than a bounty upon State Extravagance. It will be saying to the indebted States—"go on as you have begun; throw prudence to the winds; embark in every idle enterprise which offers itself, and squander your means at pleasure—have no fear for the result, for the General Government will pay all your debts, and set you on your legs once more to run anew the race of extravagance. If you are poor, your sister States are some of them rich, and they must take care of you." It will be saying to the unindebted States—"you have economized for naught—you have saved your means only to bestow them upon others who have been prodigal of theirs—as well might you have been extravagant, like your neighbors, for you have to suffer the consequences of the extravagance."

If, therefore, the sufferings of some of the States should, ever induce Congress to adopt the Assumption policy, no limit could be set to the corruption and extravagance which would ensue. It has been truly said, too, that no plan could be devised better fitted to humble and degrade the States, and bring them to the footstool of Federal power, than to thus accustom them to petition that power for money to supply their wants.

It has been said, with no little force, that the present vast indebtedness of many of the States, is the result of a concerted plan of action among the Federal leaders. Prevented from getting the National Government by the firmness of Gen. Jackson and the people who supported him, they grasped, it is said, at the State Governments, with an intent to execute their designs "thru' them"; and as the best method of insuring success they pressed down their victims with an enormous burden of crushing indebtedness.—Whether this accusation be true or not, it is very certain that the whole history of the opposition, for the last few years, goes to justify it. In nearly every instance where they have had control, they have seduced the States into wild speculations, which have been followed by embarrassments and enormous debts. Pennsylvania under Ritner, Indiana under Noble, and Illinois under Dorian, furnish striking illustrations of this fact. And now, it being supposed, perhaps, that the States are rendered by their sufferings sufficiently submissive, the Assumption scheme is proposed—the germ of another National debt and another U. S. Bank!

The great engine of Horace Walpole, the whig exemplar, was corruption. Hamilton followed in his footsteps; and the Bank party of the present time have ever tried to coerce by suffering, the people when they could not cheat into subservency. Is it fair, then, to consider the indebted condition of many of the States the result of Federal management?—*Eastern Argus.*

An active member of the whig party in this town, and something of a wag withal, says since the nomination of Harrison he has not been able to read ten lines in a whig paper without stopping to wipe the tears from his eyes; occasioned by the reflection that such a giant of a man as Mr. Harrison should have been suffered to remain in the shade until this time; it never having been found out what a prodigy we have among us until after his nomination. He says it is another evidence that republics are ungrateful and ought to be abandoned.—*Belfast (Rep.) Journal.*

It is remarkable how natural it is for the Federal whig party to sympathize and take sides with a public enemy. During the last war with Great Britain they took sides with that power—now on the same principle they take sides with the savage Seminoles of Florida, whose inhuman butcheries of American citizens they hate to see avenged.—*New Era.*

The Boston Post intimates that when General Harrison is President, John Holmes is to be made Inspector General of liquor.

From the Eastern Argus. COLLAR MEN.

The whigs are your true collar men—none more so. They are transferred from one leader to another, as easily as a bale of cotton passes from one owner to another. At one moment they shout hosannas to Clay—the next, sing psalms of glory to Scott—and then all throw up their caps for Harrison, and raise their everchanging voices to the notes of "long live old Tip!" It is curious to see how the very same men who, four years ago openly shouted Gen. Harrison as imbecile and weak, now talk about his high talents and statesmanlike ability! We could point numbers among the leading whigs in Portland, who have thus changed their minds since 1836. Meanwhile, what has Gen. Harrison done to raise his reputation? Nothing—nothing at all. The change is only to be accounted for by the slavish regard which the opposition entertain for their party.

One of the best illustrations of whig subservency which we recollect, was given at the election of the present Speaker of the House in Washington. The opposition all went for Hunter. They pretended to be violent opponents of the Independent Treasury, yet went for a Sub-Treasury candidate. They pretended, many of them, to be inclined to Abolition, yet went for a slaveholder. They pretend to be strong Unionists, yet went for an advocate of State rights.—They did this, too, wholly for party objects—reckless entirely of principle. Many of them did, we know, with "hatefulness and dishonor." We remember to have heard several of them declare before the last ballot, that they would not do it.—"I had rather," said one of them, "have Jones than Hunter." They are both obnoxious on the score of principle, but Jones would make the best Speaker." And yet these men swallowed their own opinions, and voted for Hunter. Some four or five of them had the boldness enough to refuse the sacrifice when their names were called; but before the result was announced, party interests prevailed, and they all changed their votes and thus secured Hunter's election. So fast are they bound by the shackles of party!

Another illustration may be mentioned. When the *viva* vote question was before the House of Representatives, in Dec. last, Mr. Proffitt, of Ia., defining his position on the subject, said, he was personally in favor of voting *viva* vote—he thought that the most republican mode—but, said he, if my party can gain any thing by it, I'll go for the secret ballot!

We mention these things because the opposition frequently have the insolence to accuse the Democracy of being "nosled," and wearing "party collars," when in truth they themselves bow the knee before the altar of party more subserviently than any association which the country has ever seen.

"There is one thing the national government cannot do, with all its powers. It cannot break down the industry and the inventive facilities of the people of New England, nor can it materially diminish the great and productive sources of their great wealth."—*Boston Atlas.*

We are glad the opposition have found some limit to the power of Government. They have been accustomed heretofore to make it responsible for every evil under the sun—positive as well as negative. They have seemed to consider it able, not only to produce all blessings, but to prevent all misfortunes, and Pres. Van Buren, for suggesting that there were some things beyond its legitimate sphere, they have denounced as the most cold hearted monster on earth. The Atlas is undoubtedly right, however, at last, and we trust it will continue so, for we esteem it important to depend for success more upon their own honest efforts, than upon the aid of Government. The "let alone" system is infinitely better than any system of special privileges and protective tariffs, and the spirit of private speculation and extravagance is far more to be dreaded, than any public measure which is likely to be adopted by Government.—*Eastern Argus.*

MR. RICHARD BIDDLE AND ECONOMY.—Mr. R. Biddle is represented in the newspapers to have stated in Congress, a few days ago—in opposing the passage of the pension bill—that no economy had been practised by the Administration. He asserted it was all profession, and not even a single clerk had been discontinued. The facts are, that the expenditures in 1839 were six millions less than in 1838; and those proposed in 1840 are still five millions lower than the expenses of 1839: and nineteen clerks have been discontinued in one bureau alone in the Treasury Department; and all this has been reported to Congress and printed during the present session.—*Bay State Democrat.*

An intercepted letter from a whig in Providence to a quasi whig, has been published in the Baltimore Republican, which discloses at once the fears of the whigs that Francis, the Democratic candidate will be chosen Governor of R. I. at the April election, and the means which the whigs intend to resort to, of averting such a catastrophe.

By this letter it appears, the whigs want \$2500 from the whigs out of the State, to complete their purchases of votes, and secure their party ascendancy.—*Bay State Democrat.*

TOAST FOR MR. CLAY.—The Globe advises Mr. Clay to give something like the following, from one of his old speeches, as a toast at Richmond, appropriate for him and his principles: "May our country be cursed with war, pestilence and famine, rather than a military chieftain for President."

SOUTHERN CHIVALRY.—The Milledgeville Journal in speaking of our Boundary Correspondence has the following query:

"By the way, shall Georgia, under existing circumstances, enlist to fight the battles of Maine? Were it possible to refuse to do so, and sustain the honor of the American flag," our answer would be promptly NO. Not having the whole matter of controversy before us we pause ere we reply."

THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

A correspondent of the St. Augustine Herald, in a letter from Tallahassee, describing the bloodhounds, thus concludes:

A few days since, as an experiment, a negro was sent a mile into the woods to climb a tree, and in an hour afterwards a dog was put upon trail; he followed it direct through all the windings of the bushes without faulting. The only question is, will they follow the trail of an Indian? If they will, they will be a great acquisition to the country; for as to fighting, I am satisfied they would grapple with any thing. The way two or three of them would rattle a dozen Indians off a scrub or a bay. gall, would be nobody's business. I can only add, that I am much pleased with the bloodhounds, and would like no better fun than taking a hunt with them.

Fourkeepers have come with them from Cuba. The elder, a very respectable sort of man, is, I believe, a runaway negro hunter by profession, and he has such confidence in his dogs, that he is ready to lead their way against Indians wherever ordered; there is nothing of the slyness in his appearance.

THE AMISTAD NEGROES—CUBA BLOODHOUNDS.

Another Federal lie is going the rounds of the whig papers, headed—"Amistad Van Buren turned Slave Dealer." This lie is of the same character of that respecting the Cuba Bloodhounds. The object of the inventors of these lies is to excite the sympathy of old women in breeches, in favor of the Florida Indians and the Amistad Negroes; and their indignation against the Government, for the purpose of securing their votes for their man of all sorts, for the Presidency. From this time, till the close of the Presidential canvass, we may expect the whig manufactures to turn out weekly sales of *Racehounds and Bloody-bones*, to please the knaves and gull the fool of their party with *Coffin Handbills, Kitchen Cabinets, Poor Indians, Poor Negroes, and Bloodhounds*, will be supplied to order from the teeming whig leaders, to suit customers. But all will be vain. Harrison and his forces, with the aid of all the *Racehounds and Bloody-bones*, they can muster, will be overthrown; and swept away with the besom of truth and facts. Neither the *Racehounds of the Amistad Negroes*, nor the yelping of the Cuba Bloodhounds can save them.—(Nobody, who has sense enough "to keep out of fire and water," and go to the polls and vote, believes such silly "old wives' fables."—*Lowell Patriot.*

BLOODHOUNDS.—The following letter has been communicated to Congress by the Secretary of War—it shows clearly the use for which the dogs are to be used in Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

January 26, 1840.

Sir:—It is understood by the Department although not officially informed of the fact, that the authorities of the Territory of Florida have imported a pack of Bloodhounds from the Island of Cuba; and I think it proper to direct, in the event of those dogs being employed by any officer or officers under your command, that their use be confined, altogether, to tracking the Indians; and in order to ensure this, and to prevent the possibility of their injuring any person whatever, that they may be muzzled when in the field, and held with a leash while following the track of the enemy.

Very respectfully, your most obt. serv't.

J. R. POINSETT.

Brig. Gen. Z. TAYLOR,

Commanding Army of the South, Florida.

THE BLOODHOUNDS.—An officer arrived at Washington on Friday night, and brought the gratifying intelligence that the hounds had surprised an encampment, not many miles distant from St. Augustine, of fifty insurgent negroes, every one of whom was taken without the loss of life, or shedding of a drop of blood! I met an old whig this morning, and stated to him the fact. "It is as I expected," said he—"precisely as I expected. Do you know that Mr. Clay, more than three years ago, suggested the employment of Blood hounds to Mr. Secretary Poinsett?"—*Corres. of the N. Y. Post.*

UNITED STATES BANK.

The Harrisburg Reporter, of Friday says—"We publish the statement of this institution for January 2d, 1840. If our readers may happen to understand it, they will do more than we profess to be able to. The only plain thing about it is—that seven paper dollars are in circulation to one real one in its vaults."

MYSTERIOUS.—One of the carriers of this paper, named A. W. Burnett, was suddenly missed on his accustomed route on the 3d of January last, and the subscribers he had been in the habit of serving gave us notice that they did not receive their papers. Another man was put on the route, and the circumstance was forgotten, when about a fortnight ago the father of the young man called at our office and informed us that he had not seen his son since the 2d of January. He said he had made diligent inquiry after him, and that the last place to which he could trace him was a porter celler in Duane street, which he had been seen to leave on the evening of the 2d ult. followed by two negroes. He had, it is believed, some money with him, as he had been collecting New Year's presents on the preceding day.

From that time nothing was known respecting his fate, until yesterday, when his body was found in the East River, near Peek slip, by some boatmen who were grappling for some lost articles, and accidentally caught in their trons. No money was found in the pockets of the deceased. He was a sober, industrious young man, and no reason exists for believing that he committed suicide.—*N. Y. Times.*

"I have made a decided impression," as the man said when he fell in the mud.

OXI

PARI

HOUS

Mr. Editor—situation, as a job than I was during we now have spec and Senate,—apic to suit the taste of and ceremonious sed in both bran after the commen the general excite the session, and n important subject. It is admitted u Importance has time consumed it and it is always tance, affecting interests of the p late.

A Bill to incorp party," taking the in gainers of the ters of the Kennel Senate, and all sp Penulacot against favor of the bill. and both show the bators. Mr Blake always sending R beautiful language is a strong, nervo soul into the subj the best speaker at ate.

While I am in just notice one or There is Mr. Robt a curious genius—he speaks, some of he deals in wit and board slaking the Mr Eastman of t most valuable men ways at work emy listened to with c characterized by d done always sits d always sale in the Another valuable n Hammons of Oxfo Legislation, he tak his care, with a ta and more experie when he has some the point in questi and clear, wishing play. There are m the Senate which at some future tim appearance, charac The most intere ally confined to ally hail from will "stick his nos and give your read sedate doing. The question of a and the Senate say the next Legislatu terms. Rather than will finally consen stick to their form on the Revised Lav gree, but unless this will agree to take say it will be "ske which gets "ticked people will give the

FRIENDS MILLER ang on. The busin ing to a close. Al of the members ha for the remainder of and wish to be off the Legislature w weeks. Yesterday tion to the lower l and the years and sided in the affir fore you will percei The object of the e vise the Laws of wholly and solely u a sumptuous one, life, liberty, and h thousand inhabitant right understanding the people to be p great and manifold and critical revisio who has not witne our Statutes. To evils, requires the Legislature fears t it said to their hoo leave this particula general.

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OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, MARCH 3, 1840.

House of Representatives, Feb. 25, 1840.
Mr. Editor—I begin to be more contented with my situation, as a lobby member,—"looker on in Venice" than I was during the few first weeks of the session, for we now have speeches in abundance, both in the House and Senate,—spiced up with *varietés* which cannot fail to suit the taste of almost every one. The dull monotony, and ceremonious routine of business, which was witnessed in both branches, for a considerable period of time after the commencement of the session is now lost in the general excitement to press along the business of the session, and make up the issues upon all of the more important subjects, now before the Legislature.

It is admitted upon all hands, that a session of equal importance has never passed thus far away, with less time consumed in *speech making*, than the present one, and it is always to be expected that questions of importance, affecting as all do, in a greater or less degree the interests of the people, will call forth more or less debate.

A Bill to incorporate the "Seboomok sluice-way company," taking the waters of the Penobscot River at certain seasons of the year, and uniting them with the waters of the Kennebec, came up a few days ago in the Senate, and tall speeches were made by Mr. Blake of Penobscot against, and by Mr. Vose of Kennebec in favor of the bill. These two gentlemen done their best, and both allow themselves to be powerful, strong debaters. Mr. Blake is a smooth, easy and graceful speaker, always sending forth his ideas clothed in chaste, and beautiful language, at times is really eloquent. Mr. Vose is a strong, nervous speaker entering at times life and soul into the subject he is advocating, and is decidedly the best speaker among the Whig Members of the Senate.

While I am in this branch of the Government I will just notice one or two other members of that body—There is Mr. Robinson from Hancock (a Whig) who is a curious genius—full of myth and fun and whenever he speaks, some of the board are sure to have to take it, in rude wit and sarcasm and frequently gets the whole board shaking their sides with laughter.

Mr. Eastman of Cumberland is decidedly one of the most valuable members at the Senate Board. He is always at work early and late, and whenever he speaks is listened to with attention. His remarks are always characterized by good common sense, and when he gets down always sits down. The interest of the State are always safe in the hands of such men as Philip Eastman. Another valuable member in this department is David Hammons of Oxford County. Altho' unacquainted with Legislation, he takes hold of the business, entrusted to his care, with a tact and energy seldom found in older, and more experienced men. He never speaks except when he has some thing to say, and then it is always to the point in question. His remarks are always logical and clear, wishing to convince, rather than make display. There are many other good and efficient men in the Senate which are deserving of a passing notice and at some future time, I will give you a sketch of the appearance, character, &c. of some of them.

The most interesting and exciting scenes being generally confined to the House your correspondent generally flits from that quarter, but for the future, he will "stick his nose" into the higher body occasionally and give your readers a few outlines of their sage and sedate doings.

The question of an extra Session is again in agitation and the Senate say they will refer the Revised Laws to the next Legislature unless the House will come to their terms. Rather than let them go over, I believe the House will finally consent to this course, otherwise they will stick to their former vote, and immediately go to work on the Revised Laws. They have once agreed to disagree, but unless this vexed question is soon settled they will agree to take it out in fighting. Lookers on will say it will be a "skunk and owl fight." They want one which gets "licked." But they must look out or the people will give them both a thrashing.

Yours, most graciously,

Dino.

Augusta, Feb. 23, 1840.

FRIEND MILLER.—The ship of State is still moving on. The business of the Legislature is fast coming to a close. All seem to think about home. Some of the members have already taken leave of absence for the remainder of the Session. Others are uneasy and wish to be off. It is impossible to tell the time the Legislature will rise, probably in two or three weeks. Yesterday the Senate sent down a proposition to the lower Branch for an Adjourned Session, and the yeas and nays having been ordered was decided in the affirmative, yeas 90—nays 86. Therefore you will perceive we are to have an extra Session. The object of the extra Session is to consider and revise the doings of the Commissioners appointed to revise the Laws of Maine, and to devote themselves wholly and solely to that object. The object is indeed a momentous one, and in the issue are involved the life, liberty, and happiness of all of the five hundred thousand inhabitants of this State. Give the people a right understanding in this matter, and they are not the people to be parsimonious, so far as to defeat the great and manifold good results of a patient, thorough and critical revision of the Laws. Where is the man who has not witnessed the confusion and conflict in our Statutes. To remedy these great and growing evils, requires the wisdom of the whole State. The Legislature fears the weight of responsibility, but he it said to their honor, desires not to share it. But I leave this particular subject, and return to those more general.

The amount of business accomplished this Session will well compare with any former Session. The private and local business are unparalleled. The Aroostook expedition furnished no small amount of claims and consequently legislation. To be sure the attention of the Legislature has not been occupied in chartering Banks and other corporations, nor in examining the splendid schemes and airy notions of splendid gamblers; but has been confined more than generally to its legitimate object. From this fact, the impression has gone abroad that the Legislature is doing nothing. A mistaken notion.

An amusing debate occurred in the House a few days since on a "Resolve for furnishing arms to the Militia." The gentleman from Eastport, the man *rebat* made the constitutional-potatoe-barrel speech, rose in

this place, and with his usual self-competent and all- weighty address, began to speak, having forgotten, as I should judge, the "small-potatoes" speech, and har- ranged the House into the Lobby. Mr. Perry, of Oxford, who was a member of the Committee that reported the Resolve, followed, and it was decidedly his happiest effort. In his sarcastic, unique style, he poured in upon the gentleman from Eastport a sally of wit and satire I have not before witnessed this winter. "Finally," said Mr. Perry in concluding his remarks, "I do not see any note of my arguments (looking at his minutes at the same time) worthy the serious atten- tion of a Military man, therefore I will set down."

A petition of John Hastings and others for the re- moval of the County Buildings in your County was presented and referred to the Oxford Delegation.

Bill—an Act reducing and establishing the Salaries of certain officers, was reported to-day by Mr. Tobin of Hartford, from the Committee on Retrenchment of Salaries. I believe it don't touch Oxford at all. I reckon they had better not meddle with the bears if they don't want to see ivory.

Yours, &c.

JONATHAN.

House of Representatives, Feb. 23, 1840.

Mr. Editor.—A debate took place in the House Sat- urday last, upon a Resolve recommending to the notice of the President of the United States, Natic's new pa- tent Rifle, and ordering a certain quantity of the ap- propriations yearly made the State by Congress to be ex- tended in these, after they shall have been approved by the War Department at Washington.

Mr. Chaborn of Eastport opposed the Resolve and was replied to by Mr. Perry of Oxford in a way and manner that essentially used him up. The Resolve passed by a vote of about four to one. This shows the influence of the gentlemen of "potatoes barrel" ineignty. Wednesday last a Bill to incorporate a Sacred Music Society in Saco, came up for consideration, and strange as it may seem, was opposed by Messrs Cary of Houlton, Andrews of Turner, Eastman of Wesley and others.—These gentlemen must be destitute of *harmony*, and have no "music in their souls," to raise opposition to a Bill so harmless and inoffensive in all its bearings and operations.

They were replied to by Messrs. Tucker of Saco, Perry of Oxford, Chaborn of Eastport and Paine of Sanford and a majority of the House having such a *holy horror* at the name of a corporation voted to indefinitely post- pone the Bill.

"Music has charms to sooth a savage,
To rend a rock and split a cabbage,"

but it has no charms in the House of Representatives; many of its members discover nothing beautiful, or en- chanting in the sweet "harmony of sounds," but turn a deaf ear to the prayers of the votaries of music. A Bill reported by the Committee on Literature and Literary In- stitutions, appointing a Commissioner to travel & collect facts, disseminate information among the people, for the benefit of common Schools &c. was taken up and sup- ported by remarks from Perry of Oxford and Fisher of Charlotte and opposed by Mr. Otis of Hallowell, it was then on motion of Mr. Paine of Sanford laid on the table. This is a Bill in which the friends of Common School Education feel a peculiar interest, and well meet from such a warm and powerful support. But we have but small hopes of its passing to become a Law. The unfounded prejudices of many members are brought in array against it, and a determination seems to exist among many to vote it down right or wrong.

Yesterday the House settled the question of an ad- journed Session, by voting in favor of one, by four ma- jority. I hope this everlasting question is now finally settled.

To day the Bill to promote the sale and settlement of the Public Lands was taken up and discussed and laid on the table till to-morrow. All seem desirous to get through and go home.

More anon.

The following is a list of Officers for this Town for the current year, chosen at the annual March meeting.

Elexzer C. Shaw, Town Clerk.
Asph Kittredge, Selectmen, Assessors,
Phineas Stearns, } and Overseers,
Joseph H. King, } of the Poor.
Alanson Mellen, Town Treasurer.
John Dennett, Town Agent.
Caleb B. Davis, } Superintending School
James Russ, } Committee.
Joseph G. Cole, }

SPRIT OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS.

The following is one of the Resolutions adopted by a Convention of the Democrats of Franklin County in the Green Mountain State, on the 11th ult. It breathes forth the spirit of the days of Ethan Allen.

Resolved, That we approve of the conduct of the au- thorities of the State of Maine and the General Gov- ernment in relation to the North Eastern Boundary, and if we will come, when asking nothing but what is clearly right, or submitting to nothing wrong—then let it come, and our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honors stand pledged to the contest.

Congressional Proceedings.

THURSDAY, Feb. 29th.

Mr Wright presented a petition from numerous citizens of New York, praying for the passage of a uniform bankrupt law. He also reported from the Committee on Finance, the bill from the House of Representatives, making an appropriation for the payment of revolutionary and other pensions, with amendments. This bill was ordered to be read a third time and passed.

The Assumption Question was taken up, and Mr Sevier, of Arkansas, made an able speech in opposition to the scheme. A motion to postpone indefinitely the whole subject was negatived—yeas 15, nays 20.

House of Representatives.—Mr Graves of Ken- tucky, moved a suspension of the rules to enable him to offer a resolution directing the Committee on the expenditures of the Post Office depart- ment, to make certain inquiries relative to the official conduct of the P. M. General.

Mr Graves, it seems, in a late speech, took oc- casion to accuse the P. M. General of official dereliction, in allowing one of his Clerks to go to Kentucky to establish an administration paper while he still retained his office. After making his speech, he wrote to Mr Kendall to know if his accusation was correct—promising, if it was not, to set it right in his printed speech. To this letter Mr Kendall replied in the following indig- nant manner:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1840.

Hon. W. J. Graves, H. R., Present:
Sir—I received this morning your letter of yesterday, alluding to certain remarks affecting my official conduct, made by you in the House on the preceding day.

In that letter you say—"I propose to write out and publish my remarks; but, before I do so, I have thought if but just to you to afford you an opportunity to answer whether all or any portion of my information be correct, so that if injustice has been done you, I may set the matter right in my written remarks."

You then inform me that you had reference to the case of E. W. Robinson, Esq., supposed to be a clerk in the Post Office Department, who, it is said, is about to commence the publication of a newspaper at Frankfort, Kentucky, and you put to me several specific interrogatories touching those matters, to which you request my reply, with as little delay as my engagements will al- low.

Now, sir, although I do not question the right of a member of Congress to become the retailer on the floor of the House of the false and malignant gossip which taints the atmosphere of this city, I do deny his right to call on the party so slandered to aid him in escaping the responsibility of reducing such slanders to libels in a written speech.

I very much regret that this idea of doing justice to me did not occur before you made your attack in the House. You admit it to be "just" that I shall have an opportunity to make the truth known before your speech be written. Was it less "just" that such an opportunity should be afforded me before it was spoken? If, before holding me up as a delinquent in duty by re- marks publicly uttered, to be noted by reporters, and scattered by letter-writers over the whole Union, on no better authority than the second- hand "information of a very respectable gen- tleman," you had done me the justice to inquire into their truth, I could have had no objection to putting you in possession of all the facts of the case within my knowledge. As it is, I deem that justice to myself will be best promoted by declin- ing to aid you in making up for the public a speech different from that you uttered on the floor of the House.

AMOS KENDALL.

Mr Graves, thereupon, moved on Thursday last, that that the whole subject be referred to the P. O. Committee.

The Speaker said the motion could only be entertained by unanimous consent.

Mr Leadbetter wished to know if these resolu- tions would be open to amendment. If so, he wished them to lie over.

Mr Albert Smith rising and objecting.

Mr Graves moved a suspension of the rules, and asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered; and, being taken, were—yeas 118, nays 62.

So the rule was not suspended, (two-thirds not voting therefor.)

From the Eastern Argus.

Augusta, Feb. 24.

I have been amusing myself for half an hour, with reading the signs, not of Zodiac, but in the Federal papers, which seem so greatly to cheer the hearts of the opposition. They are something like the old Lad's Ghost which was always "just going to appear." The poor self-deluded, canting and hypocritical Whigs, seek for a sign in the political firmament, but there shall no sign be given, till the sign of the September and Novem- ber Election. "Why do you Whigs always crow so loud, before an election?" was the enquiry put to an opposition man, not long since. "Because we can never crow after an election," was the reply. The grace now extends to November, and till that time, brag is the order of the day in the federal camp—after which they will be silent about their defeat, and talk long and loud about what they mean to do in 1844—and so on—the series will be infinite—and produrable with the existence of nian. A humorous friend says, these signs will not be in full flush, (i. e. that is red and lowering) here in the North, till the ice goes out of the river. They will commence with the first steamboat that starts East from Boston, and will go on till near the close of summer na- vigation.

There will be ballottings had in every chance collection on board of all our Steamboats, Stages and Hotels, bar-rooms, at all the horse races, and all the cock fights. These signs will all shadow forth one event, and will all point one way.—Harrison will be President, and Van Buren Ex- President, for the most of the coming summer.—The Whigs will have at all times a large and de- cided majority in the number of "travelled fools." But these signs will all "fail in a dry time." On the days of the elections, the true people will be out. They content them at other times to re- main on their farms, in their work-shops and stores, and at all times will be employed about their business. Nor will they by any means neglect the best interests of the country. These will be always uppermost in their thoughts. But they will not ballot to no purpose—they will not at every casual meeting of friends, trouble them- selves to give false signs. They will be out in full numbers on the day of election, and will then make evident a sign at the poll, that shall pale the now hot flushed face of federalism. When their country needs their services—when the principles of Democracy are to be asserted & defended, then will the people be found ready with that mightiest weapon of freemen, true DACTYL, in their hands. They do not assemble for a sham fight, but when need calls—when democracy summons her votaries to her standard, then will the true people rush to the ballot box, as our fathers rushed to the battle in revolutionary times.

Let not one democrat be deluded for a moment, by the deceptive signs of federalism. The election will prove them all vanity—these things must all first be, and the election will resolve and dis- sipate them into air—thin air. The federal prints, ever since the inauguration of Andrew Jackson, have at periodical periods, teemed with these signs—a cursory examination of the files of any city, town or village print, devoted to the dissemin- ation of federal principles, will show this. The years '32 '34, '36 and '38, stand out conspicu- ous for the appearance of federal signs and won- ders—and this year, 1840, comes in by regular rotation. This year has but just begun. The

signs have but just commenced, & federal optics are straining themselves through magnifying glass- es, (which glasses always make them see double) to catch the next. Their penny catch phrases, are just now being coined anew, and receiving the latest stamp. They will not, however, pass cur- rent, or be taken for genuine. The fault is not, as the feds imagine *ast-wards*, in the defective impression, but in the false metal. The true ore will circulate in bullion, and carries its worth, not but in itself. It will pass unquestioned, without a counterfeit—it does not run on outward reflection but from inward value. The false glitter cannot long deceive—it may be good in appearance, but light weight shows that it is unsubstantial, fleeting and mere vapor. The king's seal, or Gov. Penn- ington's, will not give it currency with the peo- ple—and down it goes, to add another to the long catalogue of broken and bankrupt attempts upon popular credulity.

One has only to hear the catch phrases of feder- alism, to know that they are cheats, and are so in- tended by those who use them. There is in feder- alism a want of sincerity, a sort of hypocrisy, to call it by no worse name—which only appears the more apparent, upon every attempt to con- cent it.

A catch phrase to be effective, should mean something—but those even in the mouth of feder- alists, are mere notions in themselves—they come from nothing again. The feds use them to hide and conceal the odious nature of their prin- ciples, from the people. They do indeed flatter themselves, that the thin gauze covering will be effective—a little will again deceive them. The veil need not be rent, for it hides nothing—it can be seen through at a glance. Democratic catch phrases, on the other hand, are expressions of democratic principles, and hence they are popu- lar. They compress all into a nutshell, and em- body much sound doctrine in a maxim. They are all truth in a sentence, and commend themselves to reception and the most scrupulous examina- tion. They wear well, and grow bright and more bright, by constant use.

SALATHIEL.

From the Correspondence of the Boston Statesman.

Washington City, February 16, 1840.

An attempt was made yesterday, to get up, at the old American Theatre, "a great Whig Convention" of the District of Columbia. At day break the drummers of the party were sent out to collect troops to make a return at ten o'clock, when the sun was over the fore- ground, at Myneer Goscllick's, a very respect- able German gentleman of the tap, who does business—not on the fifteen-gallon principle—at the house next door to the theatre.

At half past three o'clock the marshals of the day reported that the whigs wouldn't come in unless they were "liquored." Orders were forthwith given "to liquor all round;" and then some forty or fifty men in buckram walked in- to court. The convention did not amount to any great shakes. It resolved unanimously, that the gratitude of the old Tippecanoe was due to the nose of John Holmes, of Maine, for scenting out Tipp, and giving him a "letter of recommend" which was published in the Na- tional Intelligencer of Friday.

On motion of Ichabod McDoodle, Esq. it was unanimously

Resolved, That as it is an ascertained fact that every thing aint all alike, and that there is as much difference in some folks as in any body else, it will be the duty of Gen. William H. Tapp, when he is elected to the high office to which he does not aspire, to appoint John Holmes, of Maine, to the high and responsible office of Inspector General of liquor.

Resolved, That although a nose is a nose, any way you can fix it, the nose of John Holmes, of Maine, is the reddest nose in the Union, and is a luminary and a shining light, and a monu- ment of the lustre of whig principles.

Resolved, That in consideration of the ardu- ous services of Richard Haughton, in the cause of the ten cent rebellion, and the cause of Tip- pecanoe and whig principles, that the secretary of this convention be directed to send to him, as a testimonial of our regard, four gallons of Doctor Moffat's Bitters.

Resolved, That this convention admire the alacrity with which Mr. Henry Clay directs his steps to the good old State of Virginia, for the purpose of adjusting the difficulties in that "Sacred Empire;" and as a testimonial of our regard for him, this convention do pre- sent to him six packs of Tom Cretchore, to be used at brag and cribbage by him, till he re- turns.

There were forty-two persons, all told, at the convention; and the next thing you will see, will be a flaming account of it in the Baltimore Patriot, and it will be pronounced another evi- dence of the popularity of old Tipp.

This convention was a fair sample of all the rest that are held in this country, to propitate the changes of Mr. Tipp.

Yours, &c E. G.

Both Houses of the Texan Congress have voted for the adoption of the Common Law of England, as the basis of the system of juris prudence to be reared in Texas. A British sloop of war had appeared off Velasco, supposed to be the bearer of despatches from the British Government. The papers announce the elec- tion of General Felix Houston, as Major Gen- eral of Texas. The state of business and trade in Texas remained without alteration since pre- vious advices.

The Gazette says it's too bad to reproach Gen. Harrison for not being a great man. We think so, too, for the General can't help it—he was born so. But is it too bad to reproach a man for pretending to be what he is not, or to ridicule his friends for making the false pretence for him—is there any thing wrong in this? We can hardly think so—and if the Whigs will per- sist in claiming merits for their candidate which they know he does not possess, they must expect to see their claim overthrown—if they make

themselves ridiculous they must expect to be ridiculed.—*Eastern Argus.*

HONESTY.—The editor of the Boston Cour- tier, Mr. Buckingham says:

"We profess to be one of the few Federalists that yet remain, proud of the name and prouder yet of the virtues and patriotism which the name implied."

A RETREAT!—The "Kent Bugle" has sound- ed a retreat! Gov. Kent has declined to be any longer a candidate for the gubernatorial chair.—We do not blame him. It's hard business to run against John Fairfield, and the whigs are cruel to ask any body to do it.—*Argus.*

GREAT SHIP RACE.—The packet ship South America, Capt. D. G. Bailey, sailed on the 3d inst. for Liverpool, taking out an account of the doings of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in relation to compelling the banks of that State to resume specie payments. Immediately after the S. A. had sailed, the Governor of Pennsylv- ania issued his message in favor of granting the banks further time. This important docu- ment was sent out by the Philadelphia banks on the 7th inst. in the crack ship Rochester, Capt. Woodhouse with directions to Capt. W. to engage extra hands, and to beat the S. A. if possible. We understand that the banks of Philadelphia have contributed a fund of \$1000 to be divided amongst the crew of the Roch- ester, if she arrives at Liverpool first.—*New York Chronicle.*

IMPORTANT QUESTION.—Mr Buckingham of the Boston Courier says of the foreign news, just received—"Judging from the papers we have seen, we presume that the main topic of excite- ment among the good people of England, was the question whether the young man whom the Queen was about to take into keeping as a lodger and boarder, be a catholic or a protestant."

Liabilities of Officers of Steam Boats.—We noticed, last week, the decision of the court in the case of the Steamboat McFarland against the owners of the Danube for \$23,000, for run- ning into and sinking the McFarland. Since that time, at the suit of Captain Strader own- er of the McFarland, in the Superior Court, Judge Este presiding, a judgment was obtained against Hugh Dugan, the pilot of the Danube, who was at the wheel at the time of the collision—for the sum of \$21,000—thus settling the question of the personal liability of a pilot, who carelessly, intentionally, or from fright or ignorance, suffers his boat to come in collision with another.—*Cincinnati Rep.*

DREADFUL EXPLOSION OF A SHIP.—A let- ter from Tunis, dated the 16th ult., contains the particulars of the explosion on board the large Santissimo Christo, in the Goulette. Nothing could equal the scene of desolation and horror in the town of Goulette after this disaster.—There were 117 barrels of gunpowder in the vessel, and the commotion was so strong that all the houses were shaken—not a pane of glass left entire. The lustres and crystals of the Bey's palace were broken, and the Santissimo Christo was blown into atoms, heads frightfully disfigured, fragments of human bodies, pieces of flesh so mutilated, that it was impossible to discover to what part of the body they belonged; arms, legs, and hands lay scattered here and there on the shore. A poor wretch with broken limbs was the only victim who survived awhile the disaster; and to questions addressed to him respecting its cause he replied, in a faint and dying voice—"We were all on deck, and the boy had just gone down into the cabin with a light; when suddenly I felt myself uplifted into the air, and was shortly afterwards plunged into the water." He had scarcely finished these words when he expired.—*London Chron- icle of Dec 20th.*

Every body has heard of Miller—not Joe, but the Prophet—who is now lecturing con- cerning the burning of this "circular globe," in 1843. The Boston Times relates the follow- ing good anecdote concerning him:

"Wanting money to get out the first edition of his book on the prophecies, Miller applied to Apollon Austin, Esq. of Orwell, Vt. (well known in those parts as a "great financier,") for a loan for that object. Mr. Austin offered to furnish him with the desired sum, provided he (Miller) would give Austin a deed of his farm in Ham- pton, N.Y. the place of his residence—to take effect in 1845 two years after the time which, according to Miller's calculation, this earth is to be consumed by fire. Miller refused to strike any bargain of the kind. Whether he has, after all, doubts of the truth of his own theory, or whether he hopes that, on account of his being the first inventor of the great cal- amity, his farm will be spared amidst the general ruin and conflagration, are matters which we do not care in this place to express an opin- ion about.

DIED.

In Sumner, 22d ult. Capt. John Barrett, aged about 65 years.

In town, 20th ult. widow Lydia Tuell, aged 90 years.

In Augusta 25th ult. George Robinson, Esq. late Editor of the Augusta Age, in the 27th year of his age.

CAUTION.—All persons are hereby notified, that where appearance, bound to me by the true name of the Work House in Portland, on any account, as I am not a debt of his contracting after this date, to be paid, and without sufficient cause. JAMES T. W. N. H. Paris, Feb. 8, 1840.

WANTED.—An Apprentice at the Lodge Tool business, by the subscriber, at Gray Corner. W. G. ORNE. Gray, Feb. 17, 1840.

